PURIFYING THE SERVICE.

Secretary Teller's Crusade Against Swindling Pension Claim Agents.

His Letter to the Attorney General-Some Facts, Figures, and Opinions.

Secretary Teller has made the following reply to the communication of Attorney General Brewster in regard to the appointment of experts from the pension bureau to assist the district attorney in the preparation of cases against pension attorneys charged with illegal operations:

cases against pension attornoys charged with illegal operations:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, NOV. 9, 1985—Hon. BENJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER, ATTORNSY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES—SIT. I am in receipt of your communication of the seventh instant concerning the appointment by the commissioner of pensions of a person so aid the United States district attorney for this district in the investigation of all claims for pensions and bounties, in connection with charges made against attorneys, and to examine such cases as the district attorney may desire to present to the grand Jury. You say: "I agree with you that such an appointment cannot be made to examine cases where the offense, charged are not offenses against the United States, but the district attorney, in his letter to you of the twenty-third ultimo, includes cases where these pension sgents make formal application to the pursion office, well knowing that the claims they present are fraudulent."

is professional common be made to examine eases of the contribution of the contributio

torious case.

You call my attention to the report of the second auditor concerning the attempted frauds on the government in matters of bointy and back pay. I do not profess to be qualified to pass judgment on the statements made therein, for that has no relation to any portion of the public service that has failen under my attention. If by reference to this report you intend to suggest that the like proportion of applications for pecisions are also fraudulent, I must be allowed to doubt the correctness of your proposition. It is undoubtedly true that a larger percentage of applications for pensions made within the last last three years have been disablewed than of those made before that time; but it must not be assumed this such disablewance is because they are fraudulent. The lapse of time, death of coherades, e.c., has made it very difficult is not doubted that the applicant believes he is entitled to a pension. He fails to make his prof to the satisfaction of the office, and his claim is rejected. A careful examination of the pensions allowed heresofore has failed to show any considerable number of fraudulent, pensions, and I am of the ordinon that not one-haif of 1 per cent. allowed were wrongfully allowed. It cannot be said that even that percentage was faundulent, for this includes all rejected for insufficient or improper testimony, as well as where fraud was precified on the department.

I understand from your communication that it is the purpose of the district attorney not only to punish the parties guilty of raud on the applicant, but also those guilty of attempting to practice is raud on the government; and, therefore, will order the commissioner to detail some person satisfactory to you or the district attorney, either on the designation of yourselfor the district attorney, and can assure you that all the means lawfully at the command of the department will be placed at your disposal to put ish offenders, where guilty of attempting to defraud the government or the applicants for put she offenders torious case.
You call my attention to the report of the second

HUGO ARNOT'S STRANGE FREAK.

The Scotch Historian Visits an Edinburgh Dormitory as a Ghost.

Hugo Arnot, a well known Scotch flistorian and advocate, when a student in Edinburgh, examining the dormitory of a very ancient house in which he lodged with one of the doctors, discovered a secret door in the wainscoat which led into a passage ascending to a small chamber near the roof, which had no other outlet. One day he solicited and ebtained permission to go home, on the ground of his mother's illness, bade his fellow students farewell, and started, as was believed, students farewell, and started, as was believed, for his family seat at Balcorme, in the south of Fife. It was a general belief outside the the old house that it was haunted. On the night after Arnot's departure, when all the students were in bed and the room full of moonlight, a naked figure suddenly appeared, groaning and gesticulating in a frantic way, arousing the sleepers and chilling them with horror. In the morning the terrified boys told the professor about their midnight visilor, and, of course, were laughed at. But on the next night, at the same hour, this fearful visitor returned, and this time the fearful visitor returned, and this time the figure, not content with awakening them by

its groans and frightening them by its mysterious antics, pulled all the bedclethes off and them, piling them in a heap, sat upon them, and made noises more hideous than the them, and made neises more hideous than the others. Then it disappeared. The beys again complained, and were severely reprimauded; some of the most positive and terrified being even threatened with expulsion. On the third night, as before, just as the last knell of midnight sounded hollow and dismal, the specter reappeared. It was changed—no longer white, but black from head to foot, bearing in its hand a wand, which emitted a dim, ghastly light. The victims were again stripped; but, instead of sitting on the bedclothes, the apparition began to belabor them most unmercifully with the stick, driving them round and round the room. driving them round and round the room, shricking and yelling in wild affright. In vain they attempted to open the door. Some one had locked it and the key had disappeared. The master heard the noise, broke into the room, saw the marks of blows, found the key or the floor inside the dermitery. into the room, saw the marks of blows, found the key on the floor inside the dormitory, and promised to investigate the mystery. In the morning it was proposed to abandon the dormitory and shut it up, for no clew to the mystery had been discovered. In the midst of the excitement Hugo arrived, muddy and tired with traveling. He heard the horrid story and volunteered to sleep in the room, did so, and restored its reputation. Of course, you know what follows. He was Of course, you know what follows. He was the ghost; the tale of his mother's illness and his traveling was a false one, and the phosphorescent rod was of his own making in the secret room, which he had stored with provisions and books for his retreat during



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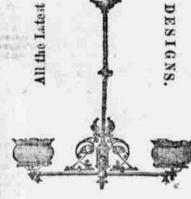
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